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## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1983

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PHONE INQUIRIES for more information about these statistics—contact Mr Trevor Allan on Canberra (062) 52 7136 or any of our State offices.

other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

MAIL INQUIRIES write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

During September 1983 100,300 working days were lost by 38,900 workers in 171 industrial disputes.

In the 12 months ending September 1983 working days lost per thousand employees was only one third of the level for the 12 months ending September 1982.

New South Wales recorded a loss of 14,200 working days in September 1983, the lowest monthly loss in that State since January 1978.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

Previous December quarter issues of the publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0) have included tables of working days lost per thousand employees. Similar tables have now been included in this publication.

#### Coverage

2. The statistics relate only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred.

3. The figures of working days and wages lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 5) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. Details shown in this publication refer to all disputes in progress during the reference period indicated.

4. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

#### Definitions

5. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.

6. *Workers involved* include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

7. Differences between monthly and annual totals of workers involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Workers re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

8. *Working days lost* refer to man-days lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of workers involved and the duration of the dispute.

9. *Estimated loss in wages* represents the amount of wages and salaries lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and the amount is generally reported by parties to the dispute.

10. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Working days lost in agriculture, etc. and in private households employing staff have been excluded.

11. The estimates of employees are obtained from the Labour Force survey.

#### Other ABS publications

12. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

*Labour Statistics, Australia, 1980* (6101.0) (\$4.80, \$5.80 including postage)

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0) — quarterly and annual

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) — monthly (\$1.00, \$1.70 including postage)

13. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

— nil or rounded to zero  
r revised

14. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R.J. CAMERON  
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)	Estimated loss in wages (\$'000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)		
1980	2,420	2,429	1,165.2	1,172.8	3,320.2	152,022
1981	2,887	2,915	1,229.1	1,251.8	4,192.2	221,779
1982	2,045	2,060	691.3	722.9	2,158.0	133,624
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>						
September 1982	2,305	2,377	1,102.6	1,184.4	3,521.0	201,381
September 1983	1,769	1,796	430.6	466.5	1,612.0	119,230
<i>1982—</i>						
October	157	184	43.0	62.6	150.5	9,592
November	162	195	31.1	64.1	102.1	6,517
December	116	139	26.5	31.0	69.8	4,879
<i>1983—</i>						
January	100	108	24.4	25.4	105.5	6,254
February	159	186	36.3	49.7	102.4	7,219
March	165	195	39.5	54.5	179.9	14,314
April	94	113	15.9	33.5	235.9	19,930
May	142	166	31.0	50.9	174.5	14,044
June	164	183	50.4	52.9	100.5	6,722
July	179	209	r41.9	r60.0	r148.1	r11,380
August	186	219	63.8	70.8	r142.5	r10,840
September	145	171	26.8	38.9	100.3	7,538

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST  
('000)

Period	Manufacturing						
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)
	Coal	Other					
1980	710.7	197.7	615.9	728.4	217.9	215.9	633.7
1981	318.3	307.4	1,221.6	654.1	441.9	465.5	783.3
1982	525.8	157.1	241.8	333.0	231.1	296.2	373.1
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
September 1982	621.1	185.4	666.4	586.2	407.2	383.4	671.2
September 1983	113.1	193.7	200.8	197.2	257.7	170.5	479.0
<i>1982—</i>							
October	21.1	20.0	28.8	47.6	21.4	4.3	7.3
November	3.3	5.5	40.1	35.9	11.5	2.6	3.2
December	5.8	5.9	3.9	11.7	3.3	5.1	34.1
<i>1983—</i>							
January	1.1	11.9	4.1	2.8	12.1	69.6	3.8
February	18.4	8.9	21.8	10.4	28.7	7.7	6.4
March	16.0	2.7	29.3	11.5	45.2	4.7	70.6
April	2.8	9.2	14.9	4.3	21.4	1.7	181.6
May	16.4	5.9	4.8	10.7	15.5	9.3	111.8
June	5.3	11.4	8.1	9.2	22.9	13.8	29.9
July	8.7	r22.0	17.7	16.3	29.7	(b)	10.3
August	7.7	r40.1	18.8	25.3	33.4	4.8	12.4
September	6.4	50.2	8.5	11.7	12.5	3.5	7.6

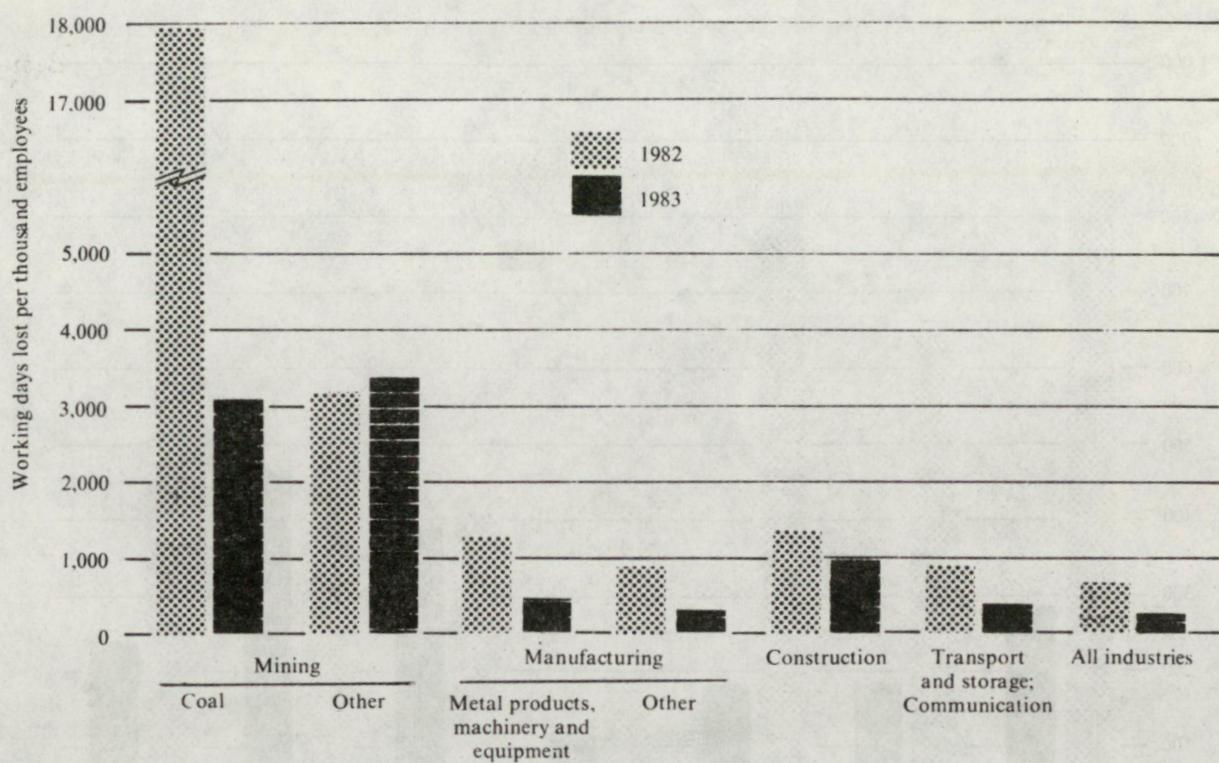
(a) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L. (b) Not available for publication.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES : WORKING DAYS LOST  
('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (a)
1980	1,208.6	1,115.4	618.7	59.4	191.0	91.5	3,320.2
1981	1,918.6	1,235.5	465.8	158.8	244.0	64.3	4,192.2
1982	961.6	368.0	509.8	66.6	162.4	61.5	2,158.0
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
September 1982	1,614.6	925.7	579.4	107.2	184.3	64.8	3,521.0
September 1983	818.1	291.3	140.1	95.0	183.8	68.3	1,612.0
<i>1982—</i>							
October	44.4	66.2	7.6	1.3	20.7	9.8	150.5
November	38.7	40.3	15.0	0.5	4.3	2.0	102.1
December	31.2	11.4	3.4	8.1	4.3	8.7	69.8
<i>1983—</i>							
January	81.5	6.8	8.6	0.2	7.5	0.2	105.5
February	58.2	20.6	13.0	0.8	8.3	0.5	102.4
March	83.9	24.4	15.4	28.1	25.9	1.9	179.9
April	157.5	22.0	4.6	35.1	12.4	4.0	235.9
May	128.8	19.7	5.0	9.3	6.2	5.1	174.5
June	57.8	11.7	10.7	1.0	10.4	7.0	100.5
July	86.7	r15.0	19.8	1.3	21.7	3.2	r148.1
August	35.3	r41.8	17.1	5.5	29.4	11.7	r142.5
September	14.2	11.3	19.8	3.8	32.8	14.2	100.3

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

**CHART 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES  
TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 1982 AND 1983**

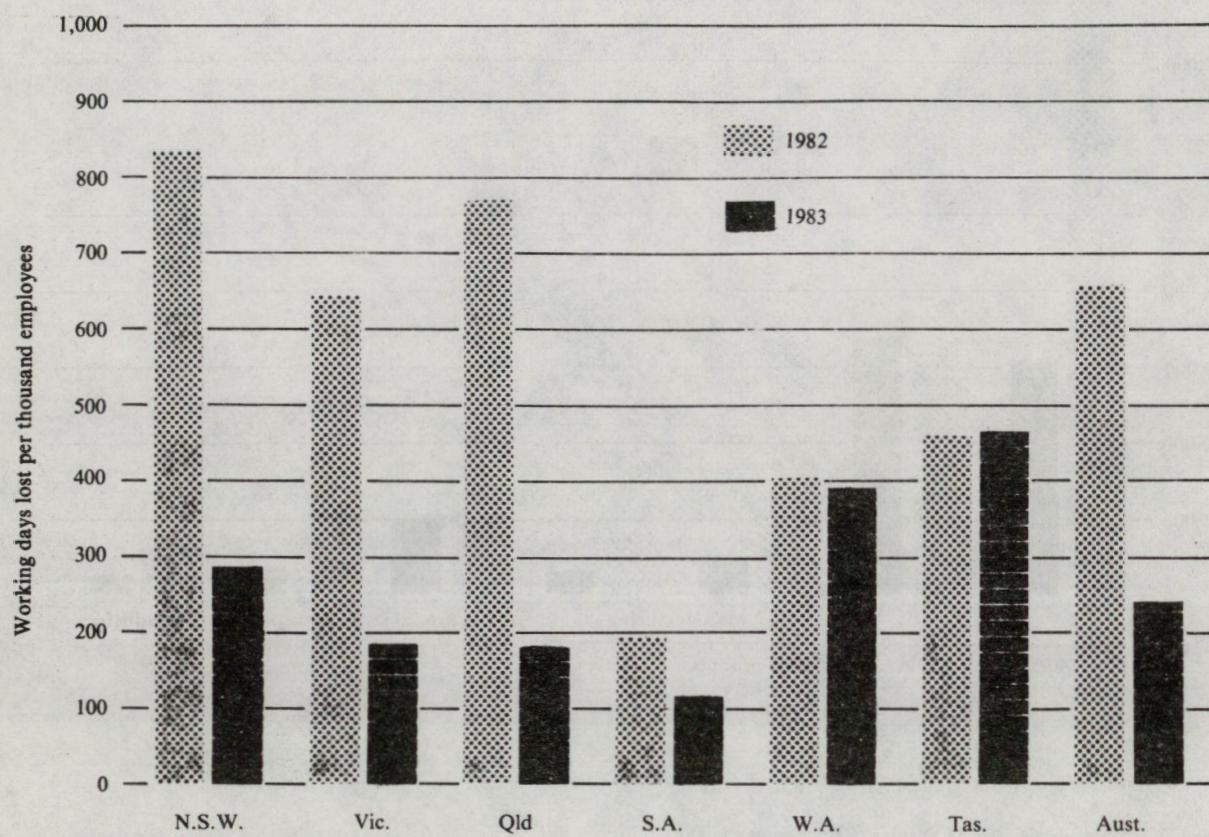


**TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES**

Period	Manufacturing								All industries (a)	
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment		Construction		Transport and storage; Communication			
	Coal	Other	Other	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries			
1980	23,533	3,915	1,181	1,094	681	537	202	650		
1981	10,011	5,141	2,285	989	1,423	1,104	239	800		
1982	14,483	2,691	487	512	782	670	85	396		
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>										
September 1982	17,950	3,122	1,269	892	1,340	882	182	658		
September 1983	3,098	3,368	436	306	941	388	30	239		

(a) Excluding agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff.

**CHART 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: STATES AND AUSTRALIA WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES,  
TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 1982 AND 1983**



**TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)**

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1980	660	792	866	132	445	659	650
1981	1,028	865	624	320	552	456	800
1982	481	260	672	102	352	432	396
<i>Twelve months ended—</i>							
September 1982	835	647	771	192	404	460	658
September 1983	288	186	183	116	393	462	239

(a) Excludes agriculture, etc. and private households employing staff. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.